1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
SA15 Mosquito SA15

tions on the edge of the rivers, often at a considerable distance from their villages.

INFLUENCE OF CULTIVATION UPON THE FOREST.—The bush, which springs up again from the seeds of the forest trees germinating in the ground, is cut down from time to time. After two or three crops have been obtained from the plantation, a variety of weedy-looking shrubs and grass begins to get a hold upon the land. The plantation is then abandoned, as the Indian does not consider it worth while to undertake the great amount of labor needed to keep the ground clear. He prefers to prepare a new plantation (M.: *insla disan;* S.: *yamak wisam*) by cutting down another patch of the virgin forest, where he is sure of a better crop.

The brushwood springing up in the abandoned plantation (M.: *insla prata;* S.: *yamak ba*), being not interfered with any longer, gradually chokes off the grass and weeds. As a number of the larger hardwood trees had been left standing in the first place, such an abandoned plantation will, after 15 or 20 years, not differ essentially from the surrounding primeval forest. It may then be cut again for the making of a new plantation. As the country is sparsely inhabited, the Indians will always find virgin forest within close distance from their home; besides, many of them are seminomadic and change their village sites from time to time. Were they to make their plantations for a long-continued period on the same spot, cutting down the brushwood again and again, a great change would gradually take place. The soil not containing any more seeds of forest trees, grass and a scrubby vegetation would in time spring up. This may be observed around certain villages, where by this manner the forest has been beaten back, inch by inch, gradually but surely.

BANANAS AND PLANTAINS.—It is noteworthy that the most important food plant of the Sumu and of the Miskito living toward the interior, the banana (M.: *sikse;* S.: *wakisa, pasa, isikini*), is not indigenous to America. It was apparently brought by the Spaniards from the Canary Islands during the early part of the discovery, first to Santo Domingo (Haiti), and from there to the mainland. According to the testimony of the buccaneers of the latter part of the seventeenth century, bananas and plantains were already cultivated in those days by the Miskito of Cabo Gracias a Dios. Raveneau de Lussan (429) saw in 1688 many bananas on the banks of Rio Coco, and states that they had been planted by the Albaoüins (= Sumu) and by the river currents. He also found this plant cultivated by the Mulattoes living around Cabo Gracias a Dios (438). Dampier (I, 9–10) mentions plantains among the Miskito, but he does not say anything about bananas. Exquemelin (English edit.: 114, 251), on the other hand, who visited the coast in 1671 and 1672, saw bananas, plantains, and